

SECRET

IDEA-0339

Copy 3 of 7

8 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Special Projects Branch, IPD  
Chief, Material Staff, IPD

SUBJECT : J-75 Conversions and Modifications to Existing J-57  
Equipment

1. Kelly Johnson called me 7 June somewhat exercised about the fact that he was instructed by personnel unnamed in Headquarters to proceed rapidly with certain modifications to Articles 344 and 378, both J-57 model U-2's now at Burbank, which modifications would be completely useless in the event we decide to convert either of these aircraft to J-75 configuration. As you know, he is aware of our prospective intent to accomplish not only the instant conversion for which approval is being sought, but several more further into Fiscal 62 as a result of Mr. Bissell's request that this be done.

2. I told him that I was not that familiar with the matter, but that I would take it up with both [redacted] to see that we would not request any unproductive work which could possibly be overtaken by events should we go the full distance on converting the entire U-2 fleet. 25X1A

3. May I ask that either or both of you give me sufficient information to be helpful in dealing with Kelly on this subject. I might mention that General Cabell called 6 June to ask me how close we were to submitting a proposal for conversions or tin cutting on some or all of the remaining U-2's, and I told him I had asked Operations to come up with a proposal, in company with Material, so that we could submit a Division recommendation to Mr. Bissell on this subject. I would like to know, therefore, what the status is of your thinking on the whole conversion problem is.

1 - [redacted]  
2 - [redacted]  
3 - [redacted]  
4 - [redacted]  
5 - [redacted]  
6 - [redacted]

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SIGNED  
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Assistant Chief  
IPD-IB/P

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**DPD-DD/P:JACunningham, Jr./mg**